

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO**

COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO,  
through its Attorney General,

Plaintiff,

v.

EXXON MOBIL CORPORATION; BP P.L.C.;  
CHEVRON CORPORATION; CHEVRON  
PHILLIPS CHEMICAL PUERTO RICO  
CORE, LLC; CONOCOPHILLIPS; SHELL  
PLC; STATION MANAGERS OF PUERTO  
RICO, INC.; TOTALENERGIES; and  
TOTALENERGIES MARKETING PR CORP.,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 3:24-cv-01393

Hon. Aida M. Delgado-Colon

**DEFENDANTS' SECOND NOTICE OF SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITY IN  
OPPOSITION TO PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO REMAND**

TO THE HONORABLE COURT:

Defendants respectfully submit as supplemental authority a recent decision by the Fourth Circuit reversing remand in two cases removed under the federal officer removal statute. *See Maryland v. 3M Co.*, --- F.4th ----, 2025 WL 727831 (4th Cir. Mar. 7, 2025) (attached hereto as Exhibit “1” for the Court’s convenience). The decision reinforces the breadth of the federal officer removal statute and this Court’s obligation to defer to Defendants’ “theory of the case,” and makes clear that Plaintiff’s disclaimer is not an effective bar to removal pursuant to § 1442(a)(1).

In *Maryland*, the states of Maryland and South Carolina each brought two different suits relating to alleged contamination by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (“PFAS”) produced by defendant 3M: one suit relating to PFAS production for aqueous film-forming foam (“AFFF”), a firefighting foam manufactured in part for the U.S. military, and one suit for PFAS production

excluding AFFF. *Maryland*, 2025 WL 727831, at \*2. Similar to Plaintiff's allegations here, plaintiffs alleged that 3M had “concealed [the] dangers” of its products and “misled the public” about those dangers. Compl. ¶ 4, *Maryland v. 3M Co.*, No. 1:23-cv-01836 (D. Md. July 10, 2023); Compl. ¶ 7, *South Carolina v. 3M Co.*, No. 2:23-cv-05979 (D.S.C. Nov. 21, 2023). 3M removed the non-AFFF suits under the federal officer removal statute, on the ground that PFAS at issue in those suits “indistinguishably commingled” with PFAS at issue in the AFFF suits (including AFFF produced for the military). *Maryland*, 2025 WL 727831, at \*2. The district courts remanded, citing the plaintiffs' disclaimers of AFFF liability in their non-AFFF suits. After consolidating the appeals for review, the Fourth Circuit reversed.

Relying on *Government of Puerto Rico v. Express Scripts*, 119 F.4th 174 (1st Cir. 2024), *Baker v. Atlantic Richfield Co.*, 962 F.3d 937 (7th Cir. 2020), and other cases, the Fourth Circuit emphasized that, given the “broad scope” of federal officer removal, “a plaintiff in the § 1442(a)(1) removal context is *no longer the master of its complaint*,” and so the plaintiffs' disclaimers could not be “dispositive.” *Maryland*, 2025 WL 727831, at \*4, \*5 (emphasis added). To the contrary, it had to “credit a removing defendant's theory of the case as to whether the conduct with which it has been charged is related to its federal work.” *Id.* at \*5. Doing so, the court could not “blindly accept” the plaintiffs' theory of the case. *Id.* The plaintiffs' attempt to exclude 3M's production and sale of military AFFF through “artful pleading [did] not trump 3M's theory for removal,” and because “3M ha[d] plausibly alleged that the PFAS intermingled to the point that it [was] impossible to identify their source,” the relatedness prong of the federal officer removal analysis was satisfied. *Id.* at \*6, 7. “In sum,” the Fourth Circuit held that “3M's Military AFFF production [was] inextricably related to the States' general allegations of PFAS contamination, notwithstanding their attempts to draw a line between 3M's federal and non-federal work.” *Id.* at \*8.

*Maryland* offers clear guidance for this case. As in *Maryland*, Defendants here have plausibly advanced a theory of the case (consistent with Plaintiff's own allegations in the Complaint, *e.g.*, Compl. ¶ 22) that greenhouse gas emissions from governmental and private sources are inseparable, and this Court must credit that theory, notwithstanding Plaintiff's disclaimer. Here, Plaintiff's suit seeks damages for harms allegedly caused by greenhouse gas emissions. Both Plaintiff's own allegations and Defendants' theory of removal reflect that these emissions are the result of numerous sources—including U.S. government and military users—that are “indistinguishably commingled” in the atmosphere. *Maryland*, 2025 WL 727831, at \*2; *see, e.g.*, NOR ¶¶ 3–4, 11–12, 21, 147–49, 151–52; Compl. ¶¶ 15–27. Because some of the emissions-causing oil and gas products were produced and distributed under federal control, federal officer removal is proper. Plaintiff's “artful pleading” cannot “trump [Defendants'] theory of removal,” which the Court must credit. *Maryland*, 2025 WL 727831, at \*6. And Plaintiff's disclaimer—which artificially “attempts to draw a line between [Defendants'] federal and non-federal work”—does not change the outcome. *Id.* at \*8.

Notably, and contrary to Plaintiff's suggestions, *see* Mot. at 3–5, courts must credit Defendants' theory of how their conduct is related to Plaintiff's claims and alleged injuries. As the *Maryland* court explained: “In considering whether the relevant conduct relates to a contractor's federal work, we credit Defendants' theory of the case when determining whether there is such a connection or association.” 2025 WL 727831, at \*4 (cleaned up). And, critically, in reaching this conclusion, the *Maryland* court expressly relied on the First Circuit's decision in *Express Scripts*, emphasizing that “[a]s our sister circuits agree, '[a] disclaimer that requires a state court to determine the nexus 'between the charged conduct and federal authority' is not a valid means of precluding removal.” *Id.* at \*5 (quoting *Express Scripts*, 119 F.4th at 188).

Defendants properly removed under the federal officer statute because a substantial portion of the emissions forming the basis for Plaintiff's claims were the result of oil and gas production and distribution carried out under federal control. *Maryland* joins the First Circuit's decision in *Express Scripts* and other cases in making clear that remand should be denied.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED.**

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, this 20th day of March 2025.

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE:** I, Roberto C. Quiñones-Rivera, certify that, on the above date, I filed this document with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system, which will send notification of such filing to all counsel of record registered in the system.

By: /s/ Roberto C. Quiñones-Rivera  
Roberto C. Quiñones-Rivera

Roberto C. Quiñones-Rivera  
USDC-PR Bar No. 211512  
Eduardo A. Zayas-Marxuach  
USDC-PR Bar No. 216112  
Myrgia M. Palacios-Cabrera  
USDC-PR Bar No. 230807  
**MCCONNELL VALDÉS LLC**  
P.O. Box 364225  
San Juan, PR 00936-4225  
Telephone: 787-250-2631  
Facsimile: 787-474-9201  
Email: rcq@mcvpr.com  
Email: ezm@mcvpr.com  
Email: mpc@mcvpr.com

**GIBSON, DUNN & CRUTCHER LLP**  
Theodore J. Boutrous, Jr., *pro hac vice forthcoming*  
tboutrous@gibsondunn.com  
William E. Thomson, *pro hac vice forthcoming*  
wthomason@gibsondunn.com  
333 South Grand Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90071  
Telephone: 213.229.7000  
Facsimile: 213.229.7520

Joshua D. Dick, *pro hac vice forthcoming*  
jdick@gibsondunn.com  
555 Mission Street

San Francisco, CA 94105  
Telephone: 415.393.8200  
Facsimile: 415.374.8451

Thomas G. Hungar, *pro hac vice forthcoming*  
thungar@gibsondunn.com  
1050 Connecticut Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036  
Telephone: 202.955.8500  
Facsimile: 202.467.0539

*Attorneys for Defendant Chevron Corporation*

By: /s/ Néstor M. Méndez Gómez  
Néstor M. Méndez Gómez  
USDC-PR Bar No. 118409  
María D. Trelles Hernández  
USDC-PR Bar No. 225106  
**PIETRANTONI MENDEZ & ALVAREZ LLC**  
Popular Center, 19th Floor  
208 Ponce de León Ave.  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918  
Telephone: (787) 274-1212  
Facsimile: (787) 274-1470  
Email: nmendez@pmalaw.com  
Email: mtrelles@pmalaw.com

Theodore V. Wells, Jr. (*pro hac vice pending*)  
Daniel J. Toal (*pro hac vice pending*)  
Yahonnes Cleary (*pro hac vice pending*)  
Caitlin E. Grusauskas (*pro hac vice pending*)  
**PAUL, WEISS, RIFKIND,  
WHARTON & GARRISON LLP**  
1285 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10019-6064  
Telephone: (212) 373-3000  
Facsimile: (212) 757-3990  
Email: twells@paulweiss.com  
Email: dtoal@paulweiss.com  
Email: ycleary@paulweiss.com  
Email: cgrauskas@paulweiss.com

*Attorneys for Defendant Exxon Mobil Corporation*

By: /s/ Carlos A. Valldejuly  
Carlos A. Valldejuly

Carlos A. Valldejuly (USDC No. 209505)  
José J. Colón García (USDC No. 308010)  
**O'NEILL & BORGES LLC**  
250 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 800  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-1813  
(787) 764-8181

carlos.valldejuly@oneillborges.com  
jose.colon@oneillborges.com

David C. Frederick (*pro hac vice pending*)  
James M. Webster, III (*pro hac vice pending*)  
Daniel S. Severson (*pro hac vice pending*)  
Grace W. Knofczynski (*pro hac vice pending*)  
**KELLOGG, HANSEN, TODD, FIGEL  
& FREDERICK, P.L.L.C.**  
1615 M Street, N.W., Suite 400  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
(202) 326-7900  
dfrederick@kellogghansen.com  
jwebster@kellogghansen.com  
dseverson@kellogghansen.com  
gknofczynski@kellogghansen.com

*Attorneys for Defendants Shell plc and Station Managers of Puerto Rico, Inc.*

**SEPULVADO, MALDONADO & COURET**  
304 Ponce de León Ave, Suite 990  
San Juan, PR 00918  
Tel: (787) 765-5656  
Fax: (787) 294-0073

By: /s/ Lee R. Sepulvado-Ramos  
Lee R. Sepulvado-Ramos  
USDC-PR No. 211912  
lsepulvado@smclawpr.com

**KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP**  
609 Main Street  
Houston, TX 77002  
Tel: (713) 836-3600  
Fax: (713) 836-3601  
Anna G. Rotman (*pro hac vice*)  
anna.rotman@kirkland.com  
Kenneth A. Young (*pro hac vice*)  
kenneth.young@kirkland.com  
Allyson C. Arias (*pro hac vice*)  
ally.arias@kirkland.com

*Attorneys for Defendants TotalEnergies SE and TotalEnergies Marketing Puerto Rico Corp.*

By: /s/ Ricardo F. Casellas  
Ricardo F. Casellas  
USDC-PR No. 203114  
Heriberto J. Burgos-Pérez  
USDC-PR No. 204809  
**CASELLAS ALCOVER & BURGOS, P.S.C.**

2 Tabonuco, Suite 400  
San Patricio, PR 00968  
Telephone: (787) 756-1400  
Facsimile: (787) 756-1401  
Email: hburgos@cabprlaw.com  
Email: rcasellas@cabprlaw.com

Matthew T. Martens (*pro hac vice forthcoming*)  
Ericka Aiken (*pro hac vice forthcoming*)  
**WILMER CUTLER PICKERING HALE  
AND DORR LLP**  
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20037  
Telephone: (202) 663-6000  
Facsimile: (202) 663-6363  
Email: matthew.martens@wilmerhale.com  
Email: ericka.aiken@wilmerhale.com

Hallie B. Levin (*pro hac vice forthcoming*)  
**WILMER CUTLER PICKERING HALE  
AND DORR LLP**  
7 World Trade Center  
250 Greenwich Street  
New York, NY 10007  
Telephone: (212) 230-8800  
Facsimile: (212) 230-8888  
Email: hallie.levin@wilmerhale.com

*Attorneys for Defendant ConocoPhillips*

By: /s/ Oreste R. Ramos  
Oreste R. Ramos (USDC-PR No. 216801)  
Arturo L.B. Hernández González (USDC-PR No. 304601)  
**PIETRANTONI MÉNDEZ & ALVAREZ LLC**  
Popular Center, 19th Floor  
208 Ponce de León Avenue  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918  
Tel: (787) 274-1212  
Fax: (787) 274-1470  
oramos@pmalaw.com  
ahernandez@pmalaw.com

Tristan L. Duncan (*pro hac vice*)  
**SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P.**  
2555 Grand Blvd.  
Kansas City, MO 64108  
Tel: 816-474-6550  
Fax: 816-421-5547  
Email: tlduncan@shb.com

Daniel B. Rogers (*pro hac vice*)  
**SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P.**  
Citigroup Center, Suite 3200

201 South Biscayne Boulevard  
Miami, Florida 33131  
Tel: 305-358-5171  
Fax: 305-358-7470  
Email: drogers@shb.com

*Attorneys for Chevron Phillips Chemical  
Puerto Rico Core LLC*

By: /s/ Eric Pérez-Ochoa  
Eric Pérez-Ochoa  
USDC-PR Bar No. 206314  
Luis A. Oliver Fraticelli  
USDC-PR Bar No. 209204  
**ADSUAR MUNIZ GOYCO**  
**SEDA & PÉREZ-OCHOA, P.S.C.**  
PO Box 70294  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936-8294  
Telephone: 787.756.9000  
Facsimile: 787.756.9010  
Email: epo@amgprlaw.com  
Email: loliver@amgprlaw.com

Sean O. Morris (*pro hac vice*)  
John D. Lombardo (*pro hac vice*)  
**ARNOLD & PORTER KAYE SCHOLER LLP**  
777 South Figueroa Street, 44th Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017-5844  
Telephone: (213) 243-4000  
Facsimile: (213) 243-4199  
Email: sean.morris@arnoldporter.com  
Email: john.lombardo@arnoldporter.com

Diana E. Reiter (*pro hac vice*)  
**ARNOLD & PORTER KAYE SCHOLER LLP**  
250 West 55th Street  
New York, NY 10019-9710  
Telephone: (212) 836-8000  
Facsimile: (212) 836-8689  
Email: nancy.milburn@arnoldporter.com  
Email: diana.reiter@arnoldporter.com

Jonathan W. Hughes (*pro hac vice*)  
**ARNOLD & PORTER KAYE SCHOLER LLP**  
Three Embarcadero Center, 10th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94111-4024  
Telephone: (415) 471-3156  
Facsimile: (415) 471-3400  
Email: jonathan.hughes@arnoldporter.com

*Attorneys for Defendant BP p.l.c.*